

**Town of Royalston  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, February 7, 2006  
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Werner Bundschuh, Chairman; and Thomas Kellner, Clerk.

1. Chairman Bundschuh called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
  2. The minutes of the 1/17/06 meeting were read. One correction was made and noted. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
  3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
    - a) The Board is in receipt of correspondence from the Corps of Engineers regarding the proposed swimming area at Tully Lake. They have done preliminary design work and are ready to meet with the Town. Mr. Kellner will set up a tentative meeting with Jeff Mangum at 8:30 p.m. on 2/28 during the next regular meeting.
    - b) 24 Hour Dispatch - Mr. Kellner reported on a meeting held recently regarding this issue. An informal discussion was held with a review of possible problems and resolutions. A Memorandum of Understanding has been written. The service will be free except for the necessary changes in the radios. A motion to move the police, fire and EMS dispatching services to Shelburne Falls by the 24 Hour Dispatch Committee passed unanimously.
    - c) Mr. Bundschuh presented John Poor with an award for his many years of public service to the Town.
    - d) The town has received a letter from the Historic District Commission as they are abutters to 18 On the Common, owned by Dwight Stowell. Dr. Stowell has applied to make several modifications to this property.
    - e) Mr. Kellner moved to sign a disclosure form from Patience Bundschuh that relates to her involvement with the 1794 Meetinghouse and as a member of the town's cultural council. The vote was Mr. Kellner, yes; with Mr. Bundschuh abstaining.
  4. Old Business:
    - a) 7:30 p.m. – Phil Delorey – Public Forum – Update of Community Development Strategy: Mr. Delorey explained that the town must update their list of planning strategies as part of the CDBG grant process. This public forum was held to get input from the public and the Board. Several objectives were presented:
      - maintain the historic character of the villages and the rural character of the town
      - increase access to natural features, especially waterways, i.e. parks, etc.
      - continue to improve roadways
      - improve the recreational aspects of the town, i.e. ballpark, area along Route 68 and river
      - make improvements to the wastewater treatment plant
      - continue to offer housing rehabilitation grant money to citizens
      - investigate opportunities for public transportation
      - develop increased space at Whitney Hall
      - encourage town departments to plan for the future
      - investigate access to communications such as internet, cable, communications towers, security services
      - identify money to pay someone to write grants.
- Mr. Delorey will attend the 2/28/06 meeting to discuss the strategies outlined tonight. Also, he has created a new brochure with information about the current housing rehab grant to send out to

homeowners. Vyto Andreliunas will check into inserting these brochures into the next Royalston newsletter.

5. New Business:

- a) George Woodbury – Lighting: Mr. Bundschuh explained that approximately one year ago, Mass. Electric, now National Grid, said that they would repair the broken lantern-type streetlights in town, but approximately six months ago, they said they weren't going to. Mr. Woodbury is a consultant who works with towns on conversion plans so they can own their own streetlights. He has designed a light that would fit in with the historic atmosphere of specific areas of town. It utilizes a radio wave fixture and recessed compact fluorescent light, which can be the same color as an incandescent light. Mr. Woodbury explained that the town would need to determine what the purchase price of all streetlights would be as a first step toward the process of owning the lights. Mr. Kellner volunteered to do research on a maintenance contract. Mr. Bundschuh will contact Kevin Shaunessy at National Grid to notify him that Mr. Woodbury has been granted permission to get information relating to the town's streetlight account.
- b) Larry Siegel – Removal of Tree, Route 32: Mr. Siegel reported that his job is becoming more complicated and that he has been receiving more reports of town trees being cut down. He has reviewed the law that oversees the duties of the Tree Warden. It states that he is the only one authorized to take down a tree, but either there must be a hearing to authorize removal of a tree or the Selectboard may determine that a tree is a public safety issue. Mr. Kellner made a motion to give blanket authority to the Tree Warden to take care of trees in the case of an emergency. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
- c) Mr. Kellner made a motion to appoint Pat Jackson as a member of the Conservation Commission as recommended by the Committee members. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- d) Reschedule 2/21/06 meeting – Mr. Kellner made a motion to reschedule the 2/21/06 meeting to 2/28/06. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. He will request that Helen Divoll post the meeting, as well as future departmental budget meetings.
- e) Setting Date for Special Town Meeting – Mr. Bundschuh has spoken with the Superintendent today, who feels that it looks good for a loan for the school district, so no Special Town Meeting will be scheduled at this time.

6. Department Head Reports:

- a) DPW –
  - 1) Keith Newton reported that he has successfully applied for and received reimbursement from FEMA from a state of emergency during October 2005 in the amount of \$1,768.84.
  - 2) Mr. Newton requested permission to deficit spend the Snow & Ice Account, which has a balance of \$5,772.52. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve deficit spending in the Snow & Ice account for the remainder of the season. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- b) Police Department –
  - 1) Chief Deveneau reported that Juvenile Justice Facility audited the police station. They reviewed some policies and arrest reports from 2005. The results of the audit were good.
  - 2) Discussion was held regarding utilizing inmates for work in town. Mr. Kellner will get more information on the program.

At 9:46 p.m. Mr. Kellner made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. The regular meeting will reconvene for adjournment only.

At 10:01 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn from the regular meeting. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.

